

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A powered test-tube agitation device (10) includes a small plate (12) having a rest (13) for a test tube (14) to be agitated and operated in agitation by a powered mechanism (15). The powered mechanism (15) is started by means (17, 117) of optical detection of the entry of an object into a predetermined zone above the small plate. Advantageously the ~~detection means are~~ detector ~~is a photoelectric infrared reflection detection means (17)~~detector.